



Just.Equal Australia 2022 Post-Election Survey

Survey Report: 14 December 2022

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Executive Summary

The aim of this Just.Equal Australia post-election survey, was to identify the factors that influenced the votes of LGBTIQ+ people and their allies in the 2022 Australian federal election vote. This information will be used to inform Australia's politicians and to advocate for the formulation of government policy.

Sample

The sample is based on participant responses ranging from the 2 June 2022 (12 days after the 2022 Federal Election) to the 13 July 2022. In order to recruit participants from a wide cross-section of LGBTIQ+ communities, a multi-mode recruitment strategy was employed (see *Recruitment* within the full report for details).

Of the number of people who consented and were eligible to participate in the survey (LGBTIQ+ person or ally, and voted in the Australian 2022 Federal Election), 2,430 (97.2%) went on to start the 2022 election questions. Of this number 2,354 (96.9%) completed the 3-minute survey in full. Of the total sample of 2,430 participants, 45.4% identified as female/woman, 42.0% as male/man, 6.3% as nonbinary, 1.9% as genderfluid, 1.3% as agender and 2.2% as "other" (e.g., genderqueer) or preferred not to say. Of the total sample, 4.3% identified as trans female/woman, 1.8% as trans male/man and 1.9% as trans nonbinary. Participants could select more than one option.

Transgender, gender diverse and nonbinary (TGDNB) participants, a small number of whom identified as "allies", collectively made up 14.8% ($n = 359$) of the sample and 1.2% ($n = 29$) of the sample were intersex. Allies of LGBTIQ+ people made up 29.4% of the sample.

Participants were from all states and territories and from 149 federal electorates out of the 151 (see below for a Word Cloud visual representation). For further details see *Demographics* in the full report on pages 10-14.



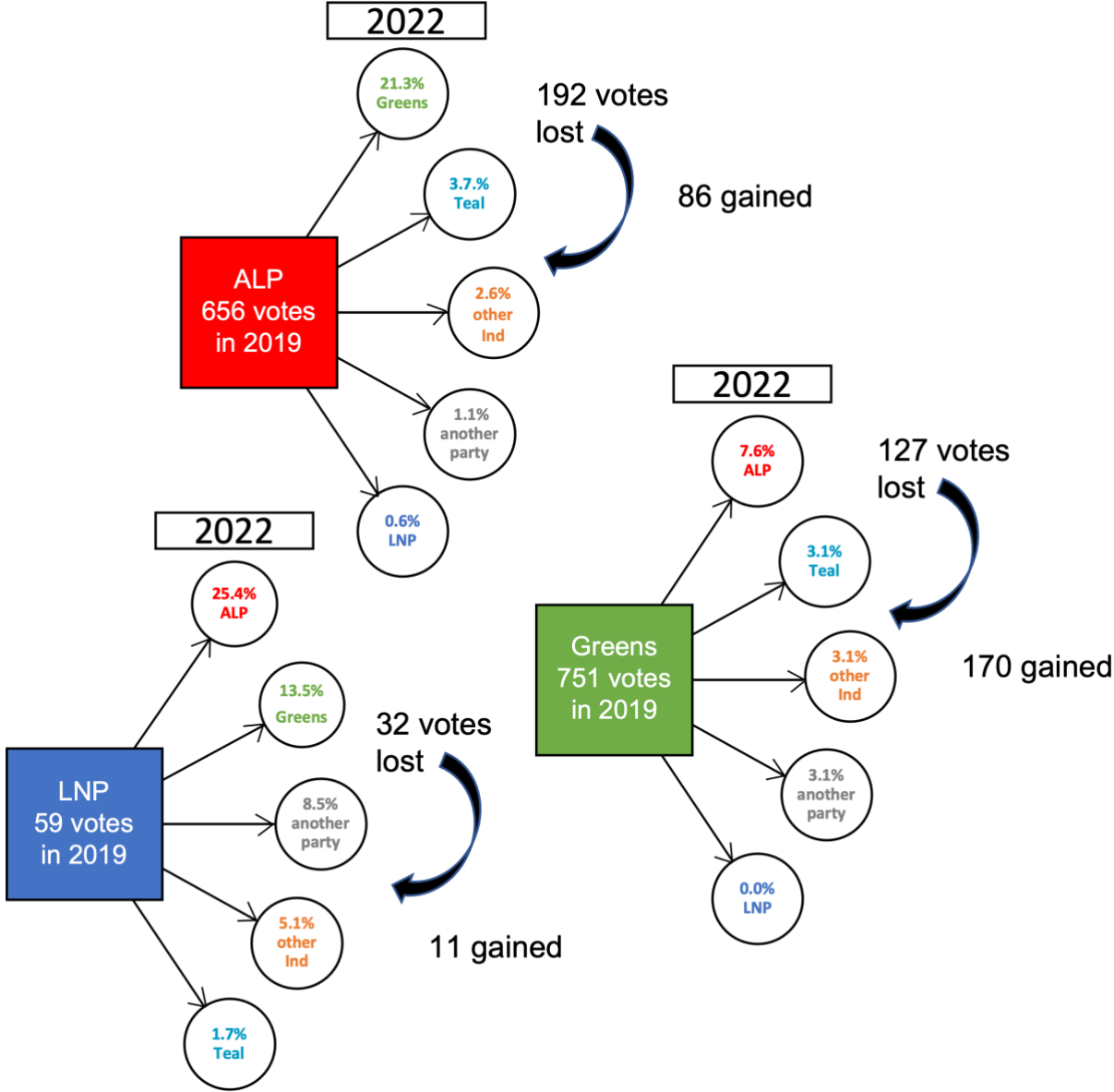
Figure A. Visual representation of survey participants' 149 federal electorates (larger font represents greater representation).

Results Summary Part 1: Changes in voting behaviours

In both 2019 and 2022, the largest proportion of LGBTIQ+ participants' first preference votes went to the Greens for the House of Representatives (resulting in an increase in 2022) and the Senate. Allies in this survey also gave the largest proportion of their first preference votes to the Greens for the Senate in both elections. For the House of Representatives, the largest proportion of first preference votes from ally participants, in 2019 and 2022, went to the ALP.

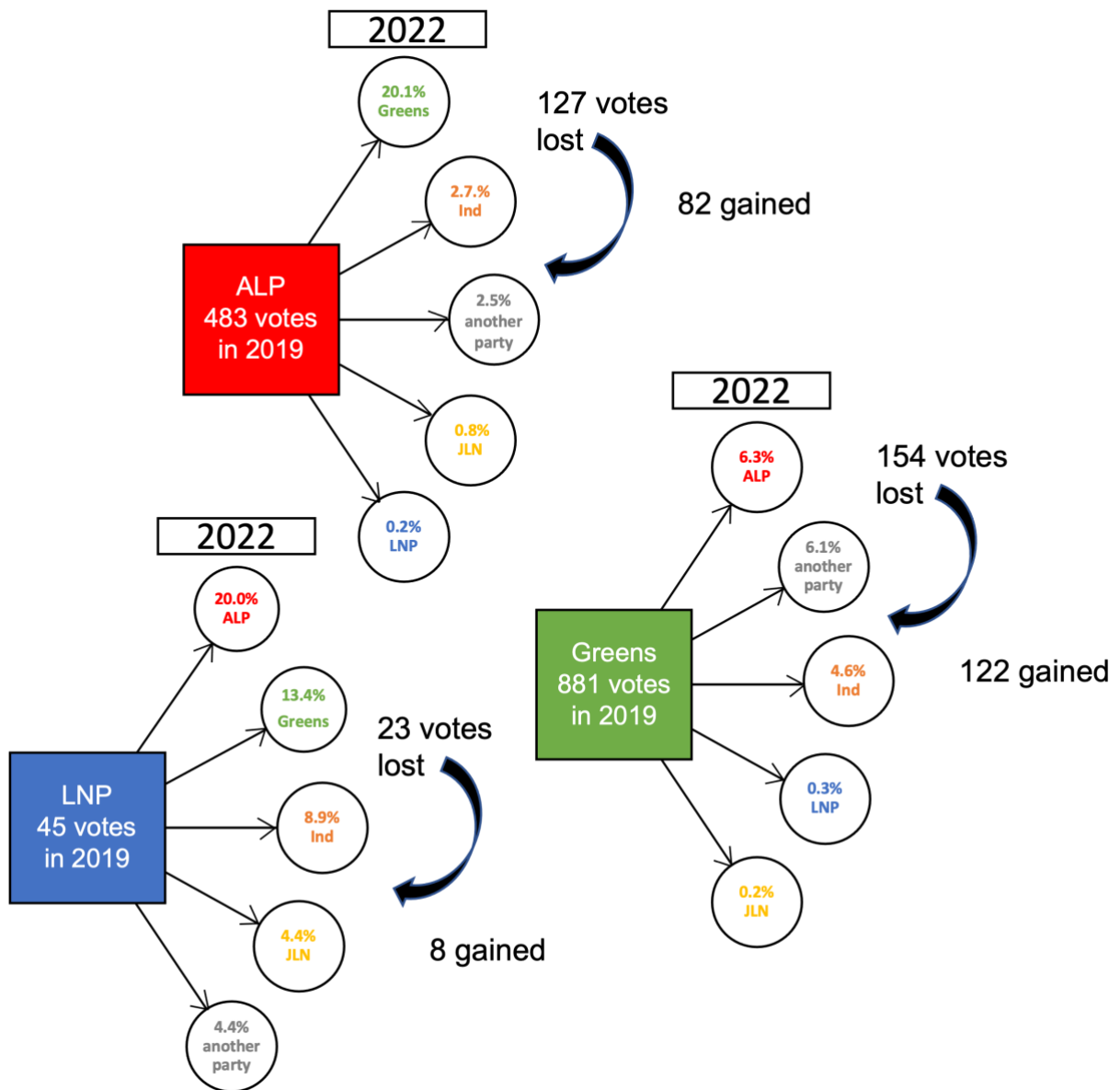
Despite this consistency, both major parties, and the Greens, lost votes from participants in this survey to independents (particularly with the addition of Teals) and smaller parties. This was more so the case when it came to the Senate. Most votes for smaller parties were left leaning, such as the Reason Party, the Animal Justice Party and the Socialist Alliance. As LGBTIQ+ participants who had

previously voted Green were substantially greater in number among those voting for smaller parties in 2022, than those who had previously voted for a major party or an independent, second preferences may have often favoured the Greens. Despite losing some first preference votes, overall, the Greens gained more than they lost, with this gain mainly attributed to votes acquired from ALP voters in 2019.



2022 House of Representatives – LGBTIQ+				
	Retained from 2019	loss	gain	Total Vote
LNP	27 (45.8%)	32 (54.2%)	11	38 (2.4%)
ALP	464 (70.7%)	192 (29.3%)	86	550 (34.3%)
Greens	624 (83.1%)	127 (16.9%)	170	794 (49.5%)
other				221 (13.8%)
				N = 1,603

Figure B (and Table). LGBTIQ+ 1st preference losses and gains for the House of Reps. % rounded to 100%.



2022 Senate – LGBTIQ+				
	Retained from 2019	loss	gain	Total Vote
LNP	22 (48.9%)	23 (51.1%)	8	30 (1.9%)
ALP	356 (73.7%)	127 (26.3%)	82	438 (27.8%)
Greens	727 (82.5%)	154 (17.5%)	122	849 (54.0%)
other				256 (16.3%)
				<i>N</i> = 1,573

Figure C (and Table). LGBTIQ+ 1st preference losses and gains for the Senate. % rounded to 100%.

The tables in Figures B and C above provide the overall gains and losses of first preference votes for LGBTIQ+ participants. (Note: For the House of Representatives, 6.5% were not eligible to vote in 2019 or couldn't remember their vote. This figure was 8.3% for the Senate). For further details on *losses* and *gains*,

including in relation to ally participants, and small party votes, refer to pages 15-23 in the full report.

While this survey does not claim to include a representative sample of LGBTIQ+ voters or their allies across Australia (due to the challenges of using random sampling with LGBTIQ+ populations), it does aim to identify general changes in voting behaviour among a diverse demographic sample of LGBTIQ+ participants, based on age, gender identity and electorate. More importantly, the survey aimed to identify what factors worked to influence participants' voting behaviour in 2022.

Results Summary Part 2: Factors influencing voting behaviour

Participants were first asked to select which factors influenced their voting decision in the 2022 Federal Election. The list of 13 items (plus "other") were presented to participants in random order to address any "order effects bias". The items were – *the economy, housing, treatment of women and minorities (other than LGBTIQ+ people), border protection, LGBTIQ+ issues in general, defence security, independent commission on corruption, transgender prejudice and discrimination, climate change, the Religious Discrimination Bill, support for refugees, health, and a specific candidate in my area.*

The items participants selected were then presented to them in a second step, in which they were asked to rank them starting with the most influential reason with a rank of "1". Below are the top items (in order) based on those listed as **1st to 5th place out of the possible 13 items** listed above. For the formula used for ranking, see page 24 in the full report.

LGBTIQ+ participants in general, $n = 1,667$

1. Climate change
2. LGBTIQ+ issues in general
3. Religious Discrimination Bill
4. Treatment of women and "other" minorities
5. Transgender prejudice and discrimination

Transgender, gender diverse and nonbinary (TGDNB) participants, $n = 350$

1. Transgender prejudice and discrimination
2. Climate change
3. LGBTIQ+ issues in general
4. Religious Discrimination Bill
5. Treatment of women and “other” minorities

Ally participants in general - over 70% female/women, $n = 687$

1. Climate change
2. Treatment of women and “other” minorities
3. Independent commission on corruption
4. LGBTIQ+ issues in general
5. Transgender prejudice and discrimination

Climate change was a top priority for both LGBTIQ+ and ally participants. For LGBTIQ+ participants, the three factors directly impacting LGBTIQ+ communities (i.e., LGBTIQ+ issues in general, transgender prejudice and discrimination and the Religious Discrimination Bill) were ranked among the top five issues (out of 13) influencing their votes, with transgender, gender diverse and nonbinary (TGDNB) participants placing “transgender prejudice and discrimination” at the top of the list. Ally participants ranked “LGBTIQ+ issues in general” and “transgender prejudice and discrimination” among the top five issues influencing their votes.

For LGBTIQ+ participants identifying as “female/woman” the treatment of women and minorities (other than LGBTIQ+ minorities) was ranked second, as it was for allies, who as a group were predominately female. The right-leaning policies, defence security and border protection, were ranked 12th and 13th respectively.

For the top five rankings from LGBTIQ+ participants identifying as “female/woman” and those identifying as “male/man”, refer to page 25 in the full report. The results for all lower ranked items are also presented.

Conclusion

Based on new research from the US¹, LGBTQ+ people are projected to become one of the fastest growing voting communities in that country. By 2030, it is expected that one-in-seven US voters will be LGBTQ+, and by 2040 this is projected to be approximately one-in-five, as younger generations continue to reach voting age. While Australia does not identify LGBTIQ+ people within its Census, there is no reason to expect Australia to differ largely from the US when it comes to the number of LGBTIQ+ people within its population. Australian politicians, therefore, need to listen to and act on the needs of LGBTIQ+ voters and their allies. Choosing to ignore their concerns or placate these communities with past successful reforms (such as marriage equality), will continue to run the risk of losing a growing number of voters to more progressive representatives, as reflected in the current report.

Reference

¹ Goldberg, S.K, Julian, C.A., Manning, W.D., Westrick-Payne, K.K., & Wetrosky, G. (October, 2022). Equality Electorates: The projected growth of the LGBTQ+ voters in coming decades. Human Rights Campaign Foundation and Bowling Green University.

2022 Post-Election Survey

Recruitment

Participant responses from this sample commenced on the 2 June 2022 and ended on the 13 July 2022. Participation peaked on the 22 June 2022.

To recruit participants from a wide cross-section of LGBTIQ+ communities, a number of different recruitment strategies were employed. The survey was advertised on Facebook and Instagram, targeting LGBTIQ+ Australians from all age groups and all states and territories. As not all people engage on Facebook or Instagram, the survey was also advertised with the Australian national media company, Qnews, and the Star Observer and Out in Perth. In addition to this, the survey link was emailed to LGBTIQ+ religious groups, sporting clubs, business networks, parenting groups and social clubs in every state and territory. The survey was also referred by various peer support programs. This multi-mode recruitment strategy, and the resulting demographic distribution of the sample, indicates that the responses from this survey represent a diverse sample of LGBTIQ+ Australians.

Of the number of people who consented and were eligible to participate in the survey (i.e., LGBTIQ+ person or ally, and voted in the Australian 2022 Federal Election), 2,430 (97.2.%) started the 2022 election questions. Of this number 2,354 (96.9%) completed the 3-minute survey in full.

Demographics

Based on the total sample of 2,430 eligible participants, 70.6% (1, 715) reported being an LGBTIQ+ person and 29.4% (715) reported not being an LGBTIQ+ person but supportive of LGBTIQ+ people and their rights (i.e., allies).

Gender Identity

When asked about gender, the numbers who identified as female and who identified as male, were close to evenly split (45.4% female/woman; 42.0% male/man).

Of the sample, 6.3% identified as nonbinary and 4.8% as genderfluid, agender, or used "a different term" (e.g., genderqueer), and 0.6% preferred not to say.

Transgender participants accounted for 7.9% of the total sample (see “Gender Identity - LGBTIQ+ participants”, for gender identity percentages for this sample). Figure 1 below shows the gender identity percentages for the total sample.

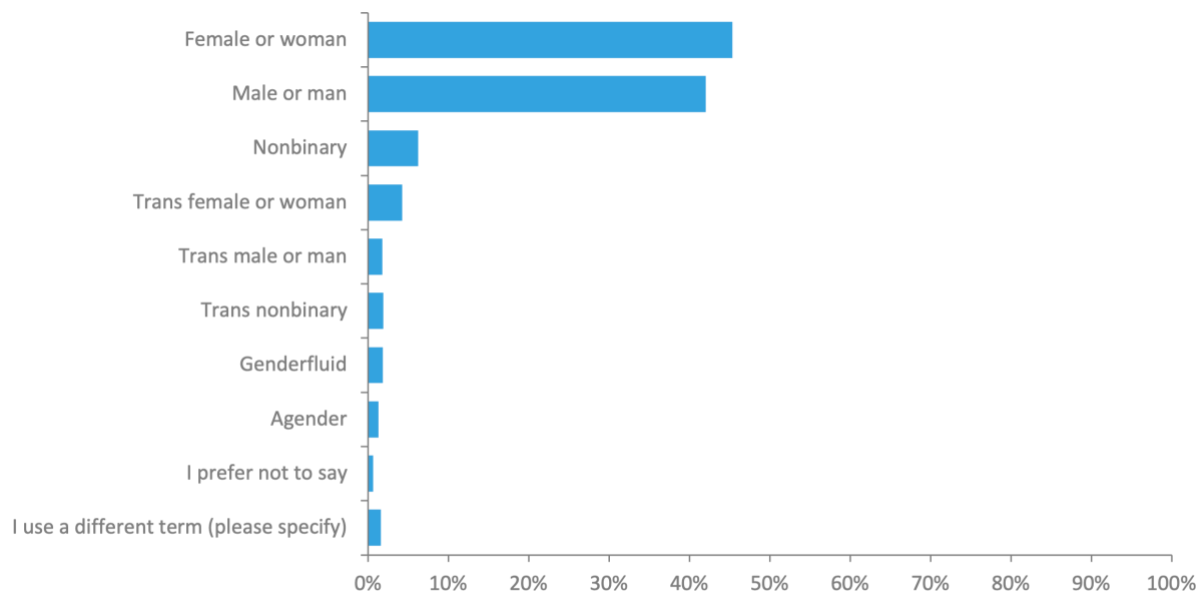


Figure 1. Gender Identity (N = 2,430; more than one option could be selected)

Gender Identity – LGBTIQ+ participants

Among LGBTIQ+ participants, 34.9% identified as female/woman and 5.9% as trans female/woman. A further 48.2% identified as male/man and 2.5% as trans male/man. In terms of nonbinary responses, 8.6% identified as nonbinary and 2.7% as trans nonbinary. A total of 6.4% identified as genderfluid, agender or used a different term (e.g., genderqueer) and 0.5% preferred not to say. Among this LGBTIQ+ sample, a total of 20.4% identified as trans, gender diverse or nonbinary (TGDNB). Participants who used TGDNB terms under “other” were included in this count. Participants could select more than one option.

Intersex participants

Intersex participants are included in the LGBTIQ+ numbers above. Specifically, 29 participants from the total sample reported being intersex (1.2%). Among these participants, 12 identified as female/woman, 4 as male/man and 5 as nonbinary. Ten identified as trans and 7 as genderfluid or agender. As noted above, participants could select more than one option.

Sexual Orientation

Of the total sample, 26.3% identified as *"straight/heterosexual"*. Of these participants, 97.8% were LGBTIQ+ allies (70.4% female).

Most participants (44.2%) reported their sexual orientation as being *"gay or lesbian"*. When considering just LGBTIQ+ participants, *"gay or lesbian"* participants accounted for 62.3% of the sample.

Those reporting their sexual orientation as *"bisexual"* made up 11.7% of the total sample. Among just LGBTIQ+ participants, *"bisexual"* participants accounted for 14.6% of the sample.

Those who selected *"queer"* made up 6.7% of the total sample, *"pansexual"* 4.6% and *"asexual"* 3.1%. When only including LGBTIQ+ participants, these percentages were 9.3%, 6.2% and 3.9%, respectively.

Overall, 3.3% reported that they used "a different term" (e.g., homosexual, demisexual), "don't know" or preferred not to say. As with gender, participants could select more than one option - see Figure 2.

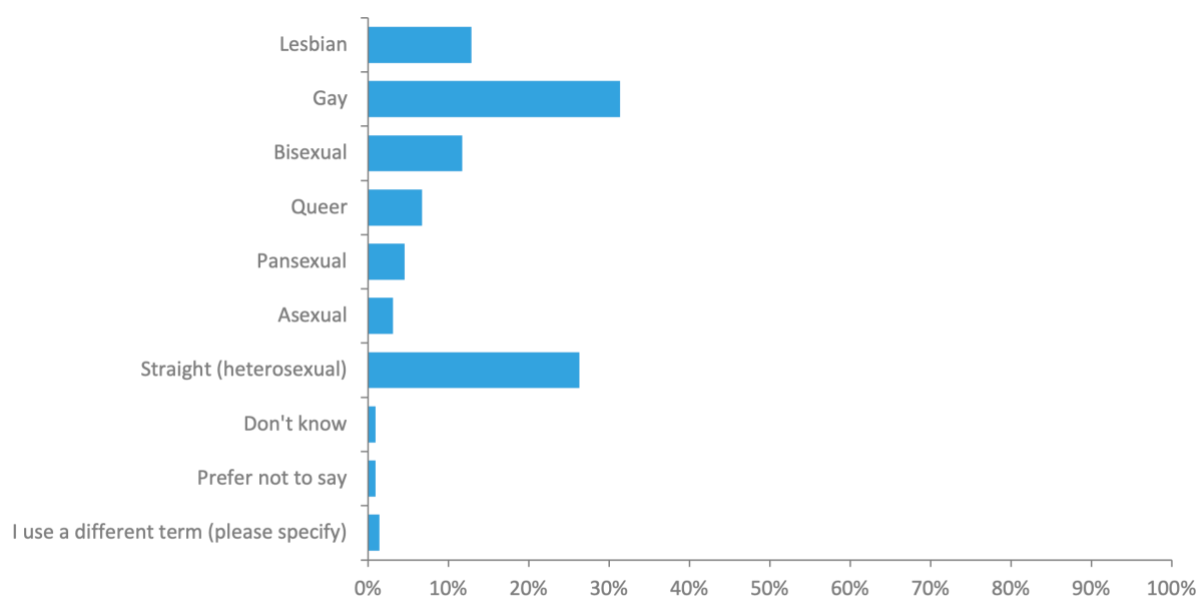


Figure 2. Sexual Orientation (N=2,428; 2 skipped. Multiple options permissible)

Age-groups

Participants' age-groups ranged from 18-24 to 70+. However, allies were on average older than LGBTIQ+ participants, with only 17.3% of allies under the age of 45. In the case of LGBTIQ+ participants, 40.0% were under this age. Figures 3A and 3B show the age distribution for both samples.

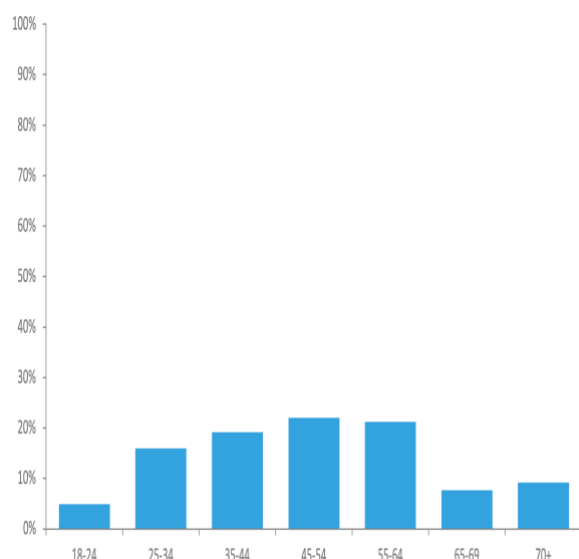


Figure 3A. Age groups – LGBTIQ+ (*N* = 1,714, 1 skipped)

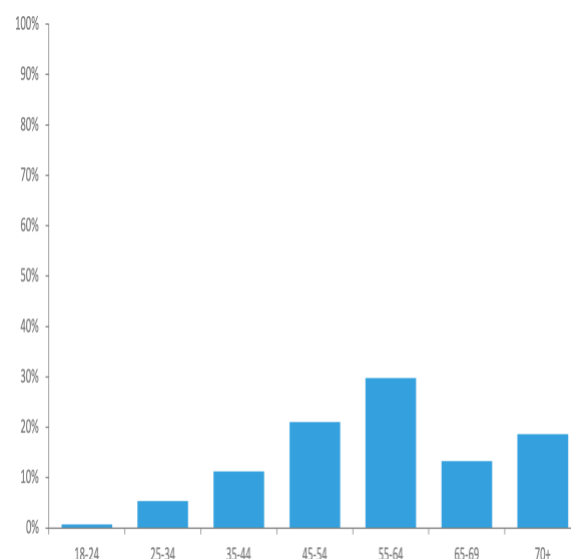


Figure 3B. Age groups – Allies (*N* = 713, 2 skipped)

State/Territory

Participants were from every state and territory. For **LGBTIQ+** participants this was - ACT (4.4%), NSW (21.6%), NT (0.8%), QLD (17.8%), SA (5.2%), TAS (12.4%), VIC (28.0%) and WA (8.8%) and 15 responses (0.9%) were missing or had insufficient information. For **Allies** this was - ACT (3.4%), NSW (23.8%), NT (0.3%), QLD (16.8%), SA (6.1%), TAS (11.3%), VIC (29.4%) and WA (8.4%) and 5 responses (0.7%) were missing or had insufficient information. For both LGBTIQ+ participants and allies, NSW was underrepresented in number and Tasmania was overrepresented. For federal electorates, refer to the following page.

Federal Electorates

Participants were from 149 federal electorates out of a possible 151. For LGBTQIA+ participants the number of electorates was 147 and for allies it was 143. For 1.9% of participants (32 LGBTQIA+; 14 ally) this information was either missing or the information provided was insufficient. The Word Cloud visual representation of electorates for 2,384 participants is presented below.



Figure 4. Visual representation of survey participants' 149 federal electorates (N = 2,348)

Change in voting behaviour (2019 vs. 2022)

To identify change in voting behaviour from 2019 and 2022, results were analysed for participants who reported voting in both federal elections. For the House of Representatives, the number of LGBTIQ+ participants was 1,603 (93.5%) from the total of 1,715 and for the allies the number was 684 (95.7%) from the total of 715. For the Senate, the numbers were 1,573 (91.7%) for LGBTIQ+ participants and 667 (93.3%) for allies. The reasons for the reduced sample sizes were, for example, not being eligible to vote in 2019 (e.g., too young) or not being able to remember who they voted for in 2019.

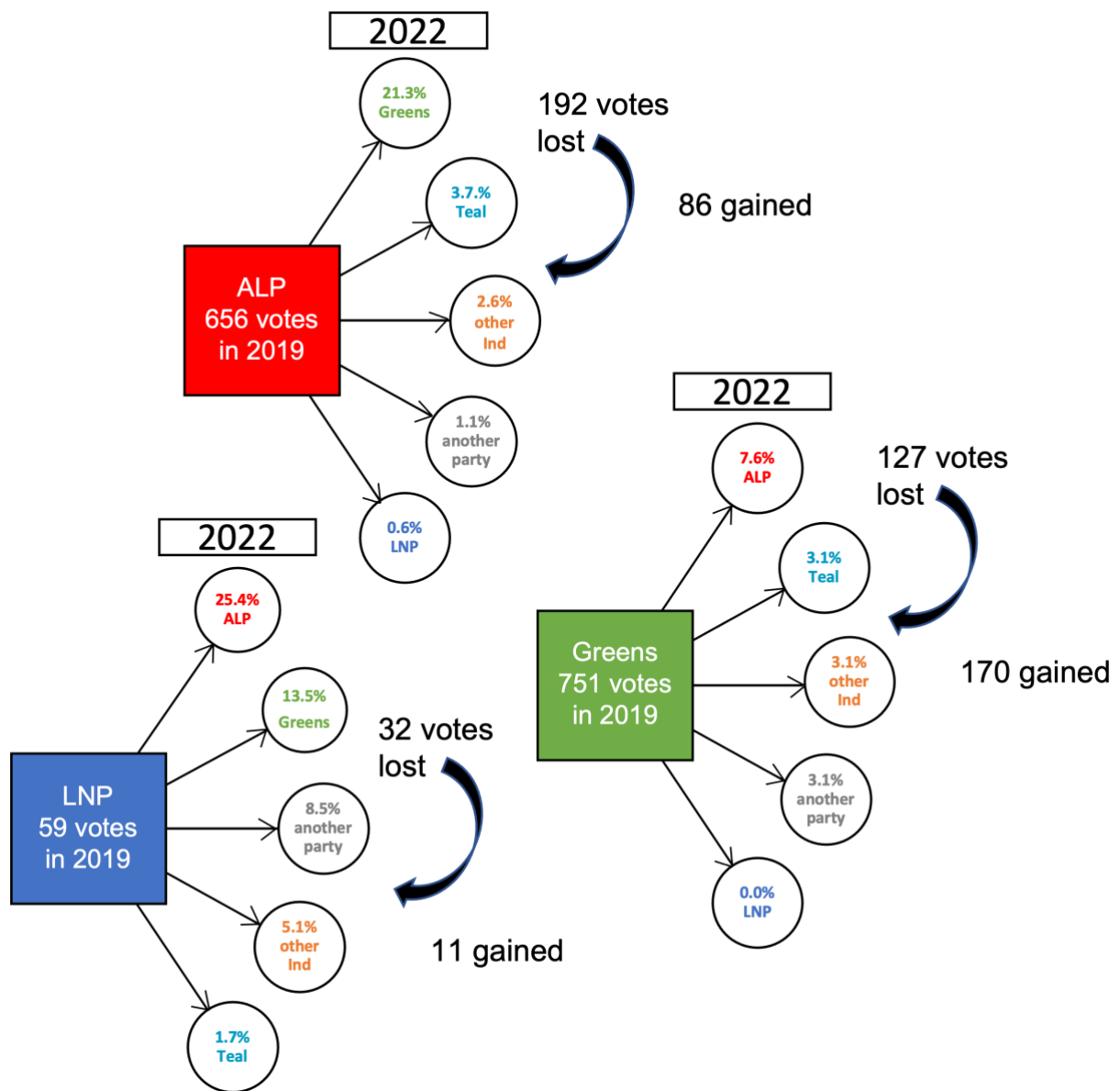
LGBTIQ+ – House of Representatives

For LGBTIQ+ voters in the survey, first preference votes for the House of Representatives decreased for both major parties in 2022, in favour of the Greens, independents and smaller parties (see Table 1). For those voting for “another party” in 2022, the majority voted for left leaning parties with the three highest votes going to the Victorian Socialist Party (14), the Animal Justice Party (10) and the Socialist Alliance (8). Remaining parties had 5 or fewer votes.

Table 1. LGBTIQ+ participants 1st preference votes for House of Reps in 2019 and 2022

2019 House of Reps – LGBTIQ+		2022 House of Reps – LGBTIQ+		
	Number voted (%)		Number voted (%)	
LNP	59 (3.7%)		38 (2.4%)	↓
ALP	656 (40.9%)		550 (34.3%)	↓
Greens	751 (46.8%)		794 (49.5%)	↑
Independent	97 (6.1%)	Teal	67 (4.2%)	↑
		Other Independent	90 (5.6%)	
			(9.8%)	
Another party	40 (2.5%)		64 (4.0%)	↑
	N = 1,603		N = 1,603	

Note: “Another party” includes a very small number of informal votes, with the vote in most cases informal for both 2019 and 2022. % rounded to 100%.



2022 House of Representatives – LGBTIQ+				
	Retained from 2019	loss	gain	Total Vote
LNP	27 (45.8%)	32 (54.2%)	11	38 (2.4%)
ALP	464 (70.7%)	192 (29.3%)	86	550 (34.3%)
Greens	624 (83.1%)	127 (16.9%)	170	794 (49.5%)
other				221 (13.8%)
				N = 1,603

Figure 5 (and Table 2). LGBTIQ+ 1st preference losses and gains for the House of Reps. % rounded to 100%.

Based on participants' responses to how they voted in 2019 and 2022, the ALP lost the biggest proportion (21.3%) of LGBTIQ+ first preference votes to the Greens, and a total of 7.4% to - Teals (3.7%), other independents (2.6%) and other parties

(1.1%). Only 0.6% of the ALP vote went to the LNP. This equated to a loss of 29.3% of participants who voted for the ALP as their first preference in 2019.

While the Greens overall gained more LGBTIQ+ first preference votes in 2022 (mainly from previous ALP voters) than it lost from survey participants, 7.6% went to the ALP and 9.3% in total to -Teals (3.1%), other independents (3.1%) and other parties (3.1%), with this equating to a loss of 16.9% of participants who voted for the Greens as first preference in 2019.

Less than half of participants who voted first preference for the LNP in 2019, voted for them as their first preference in 2022, with 25.4% of these votes going to the ALP, 13.5% to the Greens and a total of 15.3% to the Teals, other independents, and other parties. See Figure 5 for where lost votes were allocated.

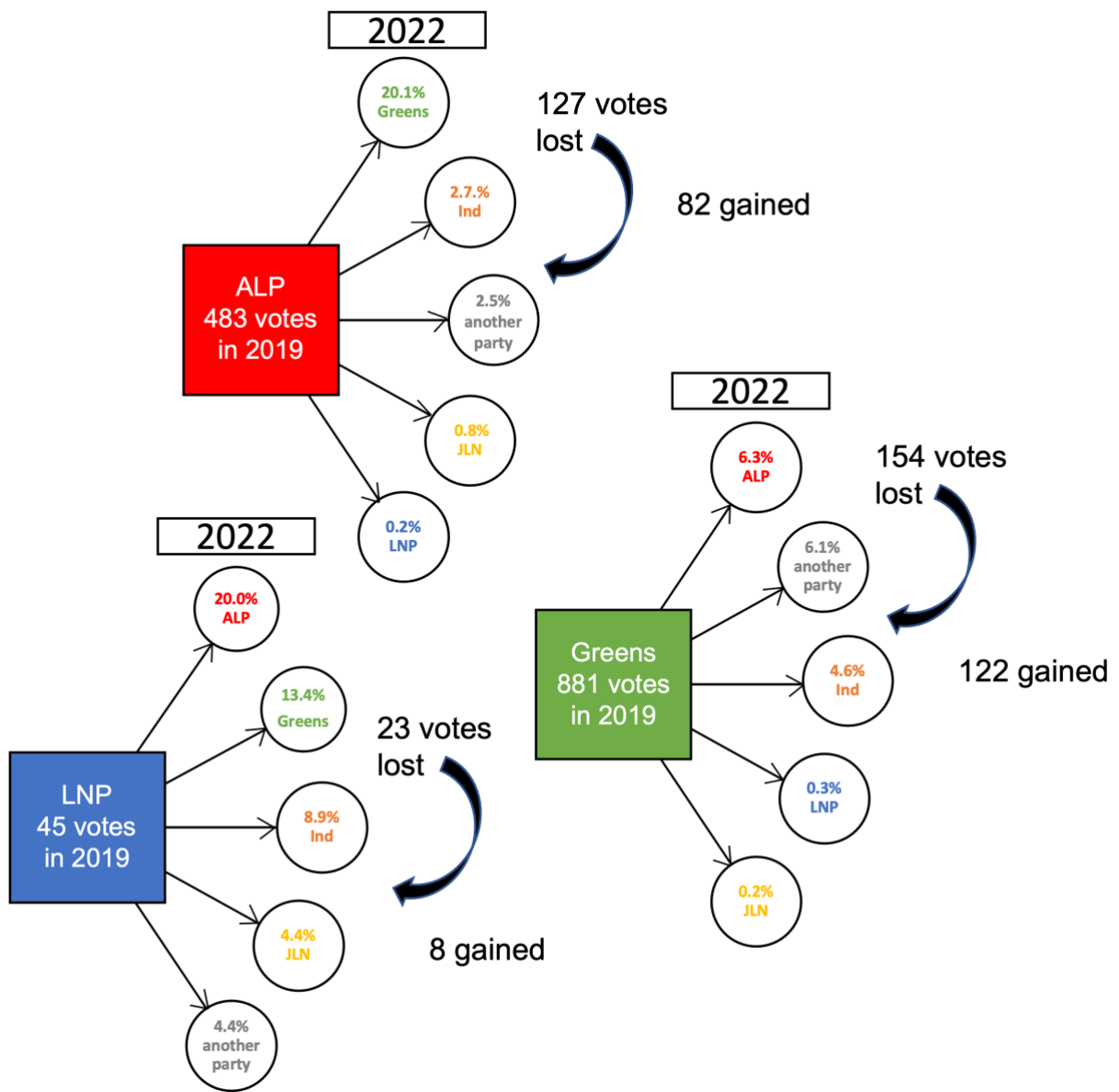
LGBTIQ+ - Senate

LGBTIQ+ participants' first preference votes for the Senate decreased for the LNP, ALP and the Greens, and increased for the Jacqui Lambie Party, independents and smaller parties. Most votes for smaller parties went to those considered progressive or left leaning, with most first preference votes for any one party going to the Reason Party (43), formerly the Australian Sex Party. This was followed by the Animal Justice Party (19) the Socialist Alliance (18) and the Victorian Socialist Party (15). All remaining parties had five or fewer votes. See Table 3 below.

Table 3. LGBTIQ+ participants 1st preference votes for the Senate in 2019 and 2022

	2019 Senate – LGBTIQ+	2022 Senate – LGBTIQ+	
	Number voted (%)	Number voted (%)	
LNP	45 (2.9%)	30 (1.9%)	↓
ALP	483 (30.7%)	438 (27.8%)	↓
Greens	881 (56.0%)	849 (54.0%)	↓
JLN	8 (0.5%)	15 (1.0%)	↑
Independent	70 (4.5%)	100 (6.3%)	↑
Another party	86 (5.5%)	141 (9.0%)	↑
	<i>N</i> = 1, 573	<i>N</i> = 1,573	

Note: JLN (Jacqui Lambie Network). "Another party" includes as very small number of informal votes, with the vote in most cases informal for both 2019 and 2022. % rounded to 100%



2022 Senate – LGBTIQ+				
	Retained from 2019	loss	gain	Total Vote
LNP	22 (48.9%)	23 (51.1%)	8	30 (1.9%)
ALP	356 (73.7%)	127 (26.3%)	82	438 (27.8%)
Greens	727 (82.5%)	154 (17.5%)	122	849 (54.0%)
other				256 (16.3%)
				N = 1,573

Figure 6 (and Table 4). LGBTIQ+ 1st preference losses and gains for the Senate. % rounded to 100%

As with the House of Representatives, the ALP lost the biggest proportion (20.1%) of LGBTIQ+ participants' first preference votes to the Greens, and a total of 6.2% to - the LNP (0.2%), the Jacqui Lambie Network (0.8%), independents (2.7%) and another party (2.5%). This resulted in a total loss of 26.3% of LGBTIQ+ participants who had voted for the ALP in the Senate in 2019.

The majority of LGBTIQ+ participants first preference votes went to the Greens. In terms of losses, most went to both the ALP (6.2%) and “another party” (6.1%). A total of 5.1% was lost to - the LNP (0.4%), Jacqui Lambie Network (0.2%), and independents (4.6%), resulting in an overall loss of 17.5% of LGBTIQ+ participants who voted for the Greens in the Senate in 2019. However, participants who previously voted for the Greens, were higher in number among small party voters in 2022, relative to those who had voted for one of the major parties or an independent, with many of these votes likely to have favoured the Greens when preferencing (refer to page 17 for the smaller parties receiving the most votes).

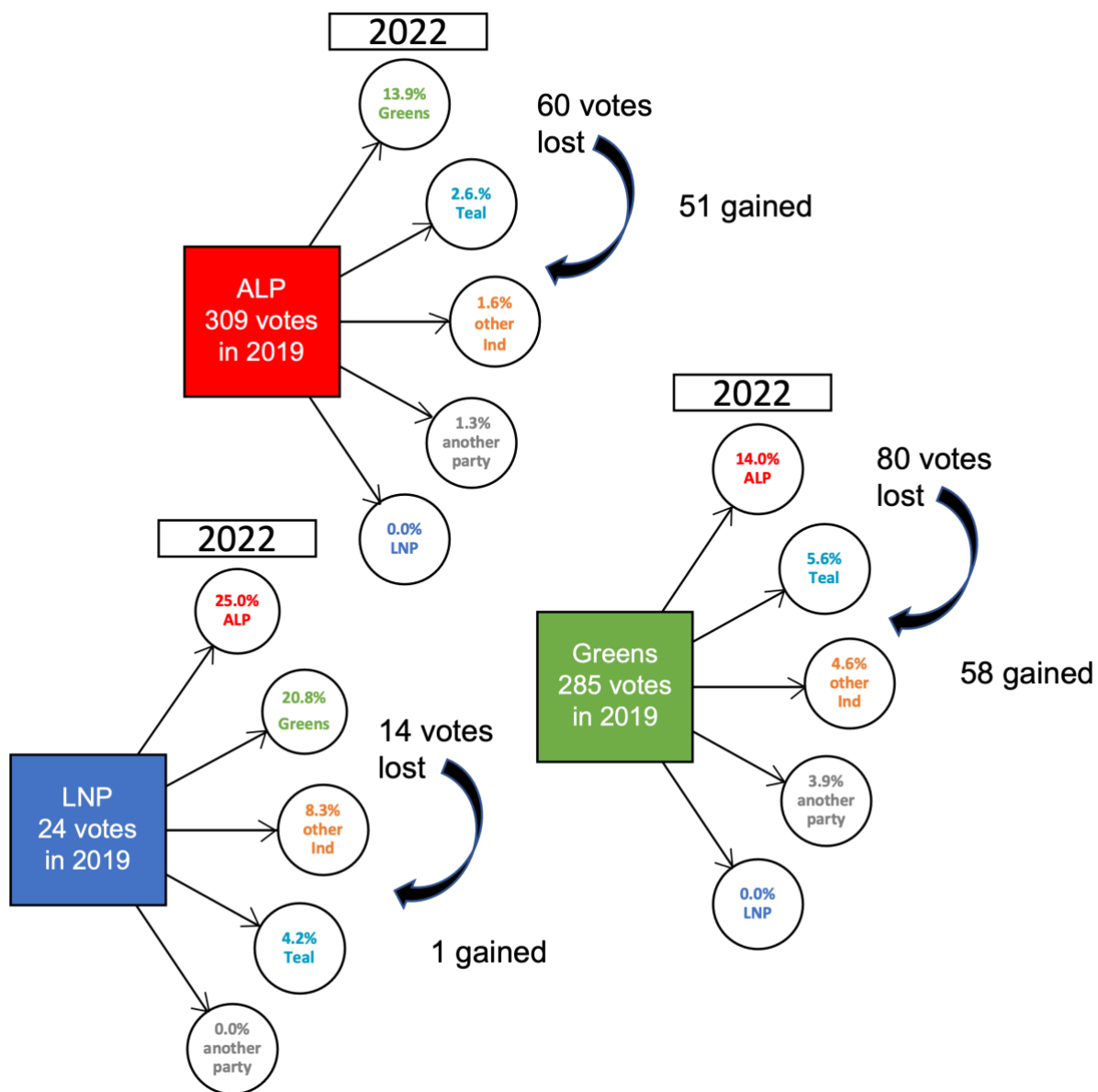
The LNP retained 48.9% of its vote from LGBTIQ+ participants in 2019, with the remaining lost to - the ALP (20.0%), the Greens (13.4%) the Jacqui Lambie Network (4.4%), independents (8.9%) and another party (4.4%).

Allies – House of Representatives

For ally participants, first preference votes for the House of Representatives decreased for the major parties and the Greens in 2022, in favour of independents and smaller parties (see Table 5). Most first preference votes for any one small party went to the Animal Justice Party (9) with all other small parties receiving three or fewer votes.

Table 5. Ally participants 1st preference votes for House of Reps in 2019 and 2022

2019 House of Reps - Allies		2022 House of Reps - Allies		
	Number voted (%)		Number voted (%)	
LNP	24 (3.5%)		11 (1.6%)	↓
ALP	309 (45.2%)		300 (43.9%)	↓
Greens	285 (41.7%)		263 (38.4%)	↓
Independent	51 (7.5%)	Teal	36 (5.3%)	↑
		Other Independent	49 (7.2%)	
Another party	15 (2.2%)		25 (3.6%)	↑
	N = 684		N = 684	



2022 House of Representatives - Allies				
	Retained from 2019	loss	gain	Total Vote
LNP	10 (41.7%)	14 (58.3%)	1	11 (1.6%)
ALP	249 (80.6%)	60 (19.4%)	51	300 (43.9%)
Greens	205 (71.9%)	80 (28.1%)	58	263 (38.4%)
other				110 (16.1%)
				N = 684

Figure 7 (and Table 6). Allies 1st preference losses and gains for the House of Reps. % rounded to 100%.

In terms of the House of Representatives, 13.9% of all participants' first preference votes for the ALP were lost to the Greens in 2022. A further 5.5% in total was lost to - Teals (2.6%), other independents (1.6%) and smaller parties (1.3%).

Among ally participants who had previously voted for the Greens, on the other hand, 14.0% of these first preference votes went to the ALP in 2022. Another 14.1% was lost to - Teals (5.6%), other independents (4.6%) and smaller parties (3.9%).

The LNP lost most ally participants' first preference votes to the Greens (25.0%) followed by the ALP (20.8%).

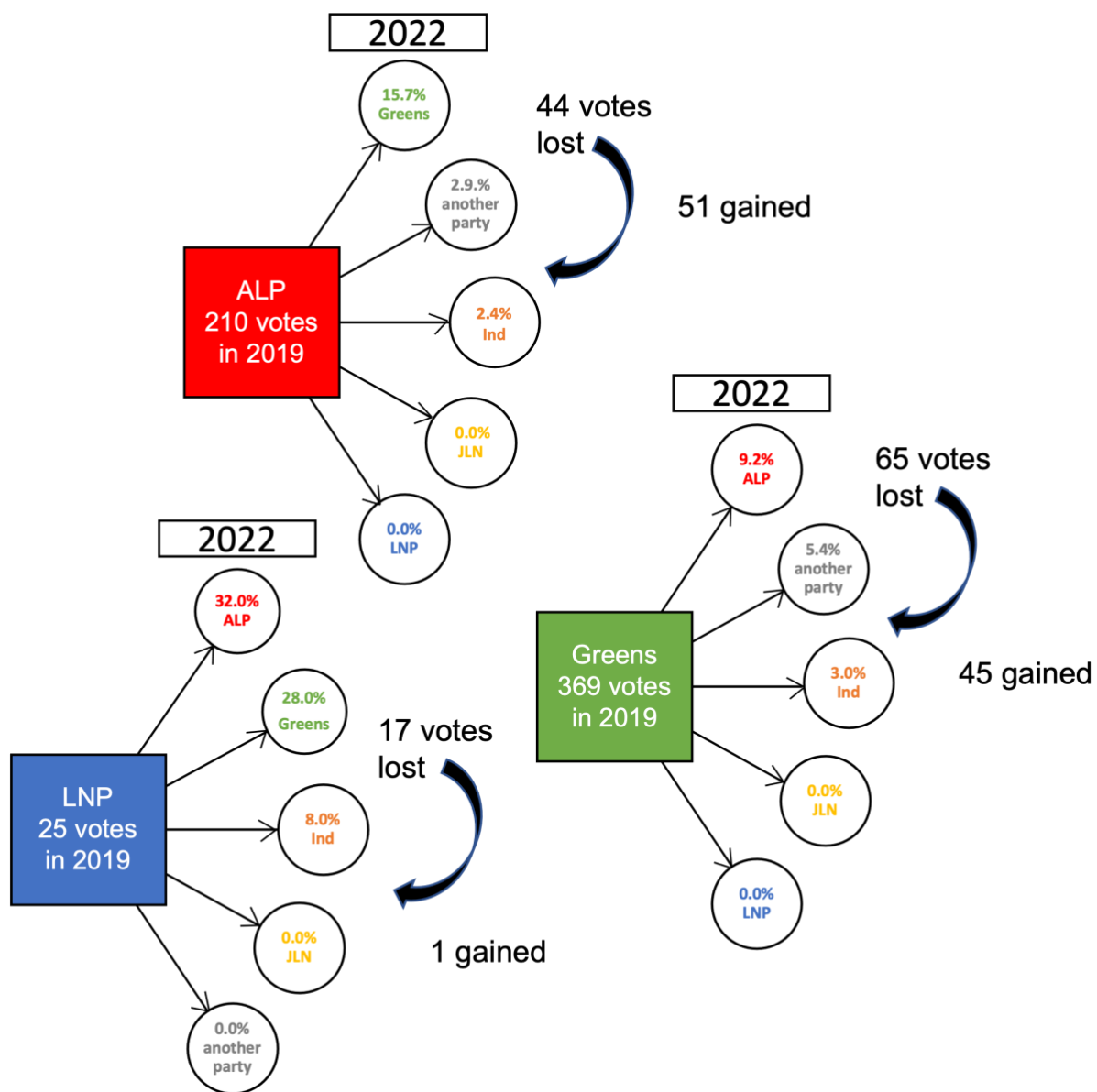
Allies - Senate

While the majority of ally participants' first preference votes went to the Greens for the Senate in 2022, there was a decrease for the Greens, the LNP and JLN. While most votes shifted to smaller parties, there was also an increase for the ALP and independents (see Table 7 below). In keeping with LGBTIQ+ participants' votes for the Senate, allies first preference votes for smaller parties went predominately to those left leaning, with most votes for any one party going to the Reason Party (18), formerly the Australian Sex Party. This was followed by votes for the Animal Justice Party (15). All remaining small parties received three or fewer votes. Participants who previously voted for the Greens in 2019, were greater in number among small party voters for the Senate in 2022, relative to those who had voted for one of the major parties or an independent.

Table 7. Ally participants 1st preference votes for the Senate in 2019 and 2022

2019 Senate - Allies		2022 Senate - Allies	
	Number voted (%)	Number voted (%)	
LNP	25 (3.8%)	9 (1.4%)	↓
ALP	210 (31.5%)	217 (32.5%)	↑
Greens	369 (55.3%)	349 (52.3%)	↓
JLN	3 (0.5%)	1 (0.2%)	↓
Independent	33 (4.9%)	39 (5.8%)	↑
Another party	27 (4.0%)	52 (7.8%)	↑
	<i>N</i> = 667	<i>N</i> = 667	

Note: JLN (Jacqui Lambie Network). % rounded to 100%.



2022 Senate - Allies				
	Retained from 2019	loss	gain	Total Vote
LNP	8 (32.0%)	17 (68.0%)	1	9 (1.4%)
ALP	166 (79.0%)	44 (21.0%)	51	217 (32.5%)
Greens	304 (82.4%)	65 (17.6%)	45	349 (52.3%)
other				92 (13.8%)
				N = 667

Figure 8 (and Table 8). Allies 1st preference losses and gains for the Senate. % rounded to 100%.

Based on ally participants' first preference votes for the Senate in 2022, the largest proportion lost for the ALP was to the Greens (15.7%) and a total of 5.3% of ALP votes were lost to – independents (2.4%) and smaller parties (2.9%).

Among those who previously gave their first preference to the Greens in the Senate, 9.2% gave this to the ALP, 3.0% to independents and 5.4% to smaller parties.

For ally participants previously giving their first preference vote to the LNP, 32% gave it to the ALP, 28% to the Greens and 8% to independents.

Summary – Change in voting behaviour

In both 2019 and 2022, the largest proportion of LGBTIQ+ participants' first preference votes went to the Greens for the House of Representatives (resulting in an increase in 2022) and the Senate. Ally participants also gave the largest proportion of their first preference votes to the Greens for the Senate in both elections. For the House of Representatives, the largest proportion of first preference votes from ally participants in 2019 and 2022 went to the ALP.

Despite this consistency, both major parties, and the Greens, lost votes from participants in this survey to independents (particularly with the addition of Teals) and smaller parties. This was more so the case when it came to the Senate. Most votes for smaller parties were left leaning, such as the Reason Party, the Animal Justice Party and the Socialist Alliance. As LGBTIQ+ participants who had previously voted Green were substantially greater in number among those voting for smaller parties in 2022, than those who had previously voted for one of the major parties or an independent, second preferences may have often favoured the Greens.

While this survey does not claim to represent LGBTIQ+ voters or their allies across Australia, it does aim to identify general changes in voting behaviour among a diverse demographic sample of LGBTIQ+ participants, based on age, gender identity and electorate. The main purpose of the survey, however, was to identify what factors worked to influence voting behaviour in 2022. The full results for this are presented below.

Factors influencing voting behaviour (2022)

Participants were first asked to select which factors influenced their voting decision in the 2022 Federal Election. The list of 13 items (plus "other") were presented to participants in random order to address any "order effects bias". The items were –

the economy, housing, treatment of women and minorities (other than LGBTIQ+ people), border protection, LGBTIQ+ issues in general, defence security, independent commission on corruption, transgender prejudice and discrimination, climate change, the Religious Discrimination Bill, support for refugees, health, and a specific candidate in my area.

The items participants selected were then presented to them in a second step, in which they were asked to rank them starting with the most influential reason with a rank of "1".

Ranking

The higher the rank, the higher the score. For example, when a participant ranks an item 1st place out of a total of 6 items it receives a value of 6 points and a rank of 2nd place receives 5 points and so on. The highest value is always consistent with the number of items being ranked. The ranking value is then multiplied by the number of participants who gave it that rank. The sum of ranks for that item provides the total ranking score. For example, out of a possible 4 items (items A, B, C and D) say 100 people ranked item B as 1st (4 points x 100 people = 400), 50 people ranked item B as 2nd (3 points x 50 people = 150), 40 people ranked item B as 3rd (2 points x 40 people = 80) and 15 people ranked item B as 4th (1 point x 15 people = 15). The total ranking score for item B (400 + 150 + 80 + 15) = 645. In cases where a participant did not rank a particular item (as it was not selected as an influencing factor in step 1), it was allocated 0 points.

The item with the highest-ranking score receives overall 1st place, the item with the second highest ranking score receives overall 2nd place and so on. Where α = number of items being ranked and n = number of participants who ranked that item, the following is used to calculate the total score.

$$\text{Total ranking score} = \alpha * n_1 + (\alpha - 1) * n_2 + (\alpha - 2) * n_3 + \dots (\alpha - x) * n_x$$

The following provides results for scores based on influencing factors participants ranked between 1st and 5th place, out of a possible 13 items (see page 20 for list). Note that some participants belonged to more than one category, for example, LGBTIQ+ female/woman and TGDNB.

LGBTIQA+ participants in general, $n = 1,667$

1. Climate Change
2. LGBTIQA+ issues in general
3. Religious Discrimination Bill
4. Treatment of women and "other" minorities
5. Transgender prejudice and discrimination

LGBTIQA+ participants identifying as female/woman, $n = 655$

1. Climate change
2. Treatment of women and "other" minorities
3. LGBTIQA+ issues in general
4. Transgender prejudice and discrimination
5. Religious Discrimination Bill

LGBTIQA+ participants identifying as male/man, $n = 830$

1. Climate change
2. LGBTIQA+ issues in general
3. Religious Discrimination Bill
4. Independent commission on corruption
5. Treatment of women and "other" minorities
(“Transgender prejudice and discrimination” was 6th/13)

Transgender, gender diverse and nonbinary (TGDNB) participants, $n = 350$

1. Transgender prejudice and discrimination
2. Climate change
3. LGBTIQA+ issues in general
4. Religious Discrimination Bill
5. Treatment of women and "other" minorities

Ally participants in general (over 70% female/women), $n = 687$

1. Climate change
2. Treatment of women and “other” minorities
3. Independent commission on corruption
4. LGBTIQ+ issues in general
5. Transgender prejudice and discrimination

Summary – Factors influencing voting behaviour

Not surprisingly, participants reported that climate change was a major factor influencing their voting decisions, coming in 1st or 2nd place among the list of 13 issues. Factors directly impacting LGBTIQ+ communities (i.e., LGBTIQ+ issues in general, the Religious Discrimination Bill and transgender prejudice and discrimination) were in the top five in most cases.

The treatment of women and minority groups (other than LGBTIQ+ minorities) was ranked 2nd for those who identified as LGBTIQ+ “female/woman” and for ally participants, who as a group were predominantly female. For TGDNB participants, transgender prejudice and discrimination was ranked at the top.

For TGDNB participants and those identifying as LGBTIQ+ “female/woman”, the independent commission on corruption was ranked 6th, whereas this was ranked higher for allies and those identifying as LGBTIQ+ “male/man” (see lists above). For all groups, health was ranked in 7th place. Housing and support for refugees were generally in 8th or 9th place (6th among allies). The economy was ranked in 10th place for TGDNB participants, allies and those who identified as LGBTIQ+ “female/woman” and 8th for those who identified as LGBTIQ+ “male/man”. In all cases, defence security and border protection were ranked at the bottom, coming in at 12th and 13th place respectively.

Conclusion

When it comes to LGBTIQ+ law reform, Australia continues to lag behind comparable countries, such as Canada, the UK and New Zealand. These nations, as well as the US, currently collect national data on their LGBTIQ+ populations. At this point in time, Australia is yet to identify LGBTIQ+ Australians in its Census.

Based on new research from the US¹, LGBTIQ+ Americans are projected to become one of the fastest growing voting communities in the country. By 2030, it is expected that one-in-seven US voters will be LGBTIQ+, and by 2040 this will be one-in-five, as younger generations continue to reach voting age.

As there is no reason to expect Australia to differ largely from the US when it comes to the number of LGBTIQ+ people within its population, Australian politicians need to listen to and act on the needs of LGBTIQ+ voters and their allies. Choosing to ignore their concerns or placate these communities with past successful reforms (such as marriage equality), will be to the detriment of relevant parties, which continue to run the risk of losing a growing number of voters to more progressive representatives.

Reference

¹ Goldberg, S.K, Julian, C.A., Manning, W.D., Westrick-Payne, K.K., & Wetrosky, G. (October, 2022). Equality Electorates: The projected growth of the LGBTQ+ voters in coming decades. Human Rights Campaign Foundation and Bowling Green State University.